

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

4001 Harding Road Nashville, TN 37205

November, 2002

Volume 59, Number 3

How Are We Doing?

What Students From Other Schools Think of Us

By Hunter Branstetter - Front Page All-Star

Despite what MBA students may think at 1:30 am on a theme day, most of us agree that MBA is a great school; moreover, we are very proud of our student body. We excel in every area. We are renowned for our academic strengths and athletic prowess. Our fine arts performances are second to none as we showcase our talented actors, incredible artists, splendid singers, and awesome musicians. To top it all off, our debate team is one of the strongest in the country. In my admittedly biased opinion, we have every reason to feel mighty good about MBA and its students.

But let's not kid ourselves; there are students from other schools whose opinions of MBA are NOT like our own. Now I imagine some students from Father Ryan and McCallie are thinking unflattering thoughts about MBA since, as Mr. Pratt would say, we "donkey mope!" their schools in recent football games; however, I wondered what students from Stratford or Hume-Fogg or Nashville Christian think of us. Being the ubiquitous Bell Ringer writer that I am, I sought the opinion of high school students from all over town, even from the dreaded Father Ryan. I looked for students who would give me honest, thoughtful answers and would not just "trash talk" MBA for the fun of it. In my quest for such rare specimens of high school students, I turned to Nashville Youth Leadership (NYL).

Nashville Youth Leadership is an organization of 40 high school sophomores from across Davidson County who participate in a year-long training program. NYL members meet one day a month to learn more about our community, connect with a diverse group of peers, and develop leadership skills through community service. At the most recent NYL meeting, I asked participants to fill out a brief questionnaire that asked if they had ever heard of MBA, what they had heard about it, how they pictured the stereotypical MBA student, and whether knowing MBA students personally had contradicted or reaffirmed their stereotypes. Though I did not ask my respondents to identify themselves by name, I did ask them to note their gender

and their high school. While I cannot guarantee that the views of NYL members are representative of all students of their respective schools, I can tell you that they make interesting food for thought.

Of all of the teens I polled, only two of them said that they had never heard

(name or her). Aside from these two aberrations, I received noteworthy information. Every other high school sophomore I questioned knew of MBA and felt qualified to answer questions about our school.

needs to convey a better image to our peers in the Nashville community. Perhaps a little more emphasis on the "gentleman" aspect of our creed is in order.

That again, perhaps it is not. One of the most interesting results of my research was the discrepancy between my respondents' notions of a "typical" MBA student and their feelings about the MBA students they actually know. While a few teens said that their encounters with MBA students had reinforced their perceptions of us as "klutzy-wearing, stuck-up, jerks," many more replied that once they got to know us, they discovered that we were actually "nice guys." I believe that our relationships with students from other schools are critical in shaping their opinions of MBA, so I was relieved to learn that "to know us is to love us." Also, stereotypes usually have some basis in truth, so it seems we need to improve the impression we make as a group.

In conclusion, I believe that most MBA students are living out the school's motto in the eyes of our peers in the community. We seem to be representing one another well on a personal level but need to work on our overall image as a student body. There is no reason to taint our reputation by appearing elitist or arrogant; we have too much to be proud of here. And



Lewis Dawson: "the hottest boy in the world"

of MBA. One of these respondents had just moved to Nashville, so it is understandable that she did not yet know of our fine institution. (She will soon, don't you think?). The other student's reply is not as easy to explain as she has lived in Nashville for some time and attends a school which competes with MBA in athletics. While she indicated that she was not familiar with MBA, she proceeded to answer the rest of my questionnaire, even circling "yes" when I asked if she knew any MBA students. I can only surmise that this survey participant was completely confused by my tricky question (come on now, it was yes or no), did not feel that she knew enough about the school as an institution (but did know as boys well enough), or just decided to give illogical answers to skew my results.

So, if MBA is doing a good job making itself known in the community, just what kind of image are we projecting? Many of my respondents knew that MBA was an all boys, preparatory school with high academic standards and strong athletics, so it sounds as if we've got the scholar and athlete parts of our motto covered. Unfortunately, along with the positive responses about MBA's academics and athletics, almost every respondent also indicated that MBA was stereotyped as a rich, snobby school. One person even went so far as to say that an "MBA guy always has the perfect girlfriend and can drive any car he wants." I, for one, certainly wish that were universally true! Though we may chafe at this sort of conjecture, we should also consider whether our student body

let us all take particular pride in the fact that we count Lewis Dawson among us since one respondent declared him "the hottest boy in the world." Yet another feather in MBA's cap!

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Man, This Party Stinks

By Christopher Schuller

In recent history's cleverest use of metaphor in the news media, CNN.com asked last Wednesday whether a Republican conquest of the American Congress might facilitate a quicker "conquest" of Hussein's Iraq; the answer grows fuzzier with each passing day.

It was easy enough as a looker-on to see the reasons for the mashing of America's oldest political party in the recent round of elections, and the consequences of such a clear electoral mandate are looming rather like the Republican elephant on the political horizon.

Perhaps the greatest tragedy of the Democrats' evident decline is the foul message it sends about the all-too-common American perspective: if Americans are wed to Republican philosophy, it is as if they are thereby declaring that they consider domestic issues (like the economy) a secondary priority, that they subscribe to a dangerous policy of white American imperialism abroad, and that they are willing to maintain the archaic doctrines of Republicanism such as the death penalty and private-citizen firearm possession.

Yet the demise of the Democratic party is merely the most injurious of symptoms of the disease rampant in present American politics: our nation is a nation of leaders who embody the "Wishy-washiness" for which Mr. McBride would "mash" them if they were his history students—we live in a nation where the cowardly elect, for fear of alienating those who disagree with them, are unwilling to

take any sort of stance on anything. What is killing the formerly left-wingers is that voters, given the choice between two identical stances, are gravitating toward the president whose scarily popular foreign policy resembles a combination of all of the charming elements of Nero and Genghis Khan.

The way for Democracy [sic] to survive with the American voter is for the party to resume its status as the staunch left: the Democrats must reaffirm their principles of social welfare, personal liberty and free speech, unilateralism, modern foreign policy, strict gun control, embrace of diversity, and human and civil rights. It is only in establishing a clear agenda which stands as a rock-solid political choice that the Dems will not fade into obscurity; nothing is attainable if all their energy is concentrated on a rapid race to the political center.

Indeed, the confirmation of our very political system is threatened by the terminal illness of the dialectic of ideas which has ruled it for two centuries. History teaches us that an unopposed regime—whether it be of one party or two—in the red carpet between the limousine of popularity-derived power and the doors to the theater of disaster attempts at world domination. If the Republicans are allowed to achieve the hold of America which the Communist Party achieved over the Soviet Union, then it will only be a matter of time until America's own imperial curtain falls harder and faster than any in history.

The Death of the Left

By Chris Smith - Opinions Editor

After the Republicans sacked Washington, I lapsed into complacent gibberish about how the Democrats would get Congress back in two years and I considered applying to colleges in Canada. Once the shock set in, however, I tried to regain my ability to entertain rational thought. I first thought to myself: "Okay, the Republicans control everything. When something goes wrong—and something is bound to go wrong—the Democrats will capitulate." Of course, this is wishful thinking at best. Then, in a moment of delicious bitterness, I hastily declared my allegiance to the Green Party. Finally—and this was the last straw—I found myself mentioning Al Gore in the serious context of the 2004 Presidential Election.

The election left me flummoxed and bewildered, much like a freshly neutered dog waking from a post-operative haze to discover—surprise—his genitals have been stolen. Only when I considered why the Democrats lost so badly did I start to make any sense. Ask someone, or yourself like that matter, what a Democrat stands for and you're sure to get a variety of answers. Democrats, it seems, stand up for nothing. Most of them seem to think that some form of Nationalized Health Insurance is a good thing. But when words like "single-payer," and "liberal" are mentioned, Democrats demonstrate an impressive facility for glib circumvention. Of course, there are a few good Democrats. Paul Wellstone and Russell Feingold are paragons of principle.

Considering, however, that one's deal and you probably haven't heard of the other, what chance do the Democrats have in 2004?

Christopher Hitchens, a liberal journalist and polemicist, quit his job as a columnist for the leftist magazine *The Nation*. Hitchens said he quit because he was bored with the left, a group of people so marginalized that no distinction could be made between the left and the right. Wellstone, one of the few Democrats who actually did stand for something, was recently killed in a plane crash. And, of course, a rainy election day here in Tennessee kept the Democrats at home. Defection, death, and dullness were the silent prophets of the inevitable fall of the Democrats.

This election, however, is possibly a good thing for liberals. The Democrats will be forced to create a platform. This platform must be in the positive, not merely a collection of rebuttals to the right. Perhaps—and again I border on wishful thinking—Democrats will unite and say:

"Here's what we stand for (not what we're against) and we will defend our principles." The word "liberal" will mean something again. If no such mobilization occurs, all will not be lost. Free from the taints of Clinton's misadventures, liberals following the example of Feingold and Wellstone will have an opportunity to prove themselves. The left will not die unless it kills itself through pitiful obscurantism and crypto-conversion to the popular right.

Defeat Ignorance; Join the Government Club

By Chris Smith - Opinions Editor

As Ashcroft and Bush wage war on abstract nouns, the senior class rejoices in being able to shut the door of the senior room. Nobody wants to talk about the U.S.A.P.A.T.R.I.O.T. Act, but everybody wants to talk about how bad the lunch food is. When asked why he would vote for Van Hilleary, one senior said: "If she's anything like her husband, why wouldn't I vote for her?"

These perversions of perception—though amusing—are quite alarming. The average M.R.A. student's knowledge of current affairs is misguided or altogether nonexistent. I see two solutions. The first way to fix this problem is to ignore it and to focus narrowly on trivial matters. Don't register to vote but be sure to wear crew socks. The second more strenuous solution is to read the papers, to join the government club, and to have an educated voice.



Ashcroft and Bush waging war on abstract nouns

I am a member of the government club, and I have only one criticism: We need more conservatives. I can anticipate puzzled looks of confusion: "What? Chris, that crazy leftist, wants more conservatives?" As it is now, the government club is a liberal organization. We lack any shred of sincere Right Wing sentiment. There is nothing less interesting than a group of people who agree with each other.

The government club, however, is not interested in merely rounding up all the extremists on campus for angry debates. We'd like to have an educated and a balanced interpretation of current affairs and politics. If any of the above is appealing to you, come to the next government club meeting. If you prefer to remain uninformed, you're free to stay at home on Election Day and wonder why Bill Clinton doesn't support Van Hilleary.

Chicago: There and Back Again

By Max Douglas

Overall, the Theater/Art Chicago trip was a great success. Our agenda was to see the largest amount of Chicago in the smallest amount of time, which is what we did. Obviously, to see the third largest city in America in three days is a large task, and we were allowed no down time to read or just do nothing. This was "the worst" part of the trip to some, but I think it was totally necessary to complete our objective. For all of us, this was our fall break, and when Mr. Gioia commented on the break and how we all needed it to catch up on sleep, I let out a silent laugh. Taking this into consideration, one would probably suggest this to be a summer trip. I personally think this would be a very horrible idea because this trip also served as a reminder to those of us stressfully caught up in it that there's another world outside of our little MBA community.

Ok, I completely ripped that first paragraph off my extra credit paper for Art History. It's late and I don't feel like writing, ok? Anyway the group, composed of a mix over a dozen students, did several things you don't do in an average weekend. We were lectured on street-smarts from a homeless guy, witnessed a bear scan on the L-train, and were toured around the city by a fifty-year-old "push" female nicknamed

Attila by our senior tour-mates. Not what you expected to hear, but I'm sure you

performances, and ate at some wonderful restaurants.



already know that we went to three art museums, saw three top-notch theatrical

Some of you are wondering why we didn't bother going to New York if we

wanted to see that stuff. Well, besides Attila making it perfectly clear that Chicago is heads above New York, Chicago turned to the ground in the 1870's. Therefore, logic would deduce that they would rebuild the city rather than abandon it. Therefore it is the center of contemporary architecture. The famous American architect Frank Lloyd Wright began in Chicago, the guy who did Falling Water and the Guggenheim museum. Also, Chicago isn't nearly as big, loud, crowded, or smelly as New York, which makes it a much more manageable trip. Speaking of smelly, walking back to the hotel one night, Bill and I could swear that we smelt chocolate fudge for three blocks. We concluded it was a glitch in the Matrix: it flipped fudge and sewage.

The Chicago Trip was a bonding trip: spending time with teachers and fellow students that you normally wouldn't even meet. I have never had a class with Dr. Fuller and had never talked to him until this trip, and he's actually a really cool guy. I found out Matt Turney plays the harmonica and lives off beat. I also learned that Lachlan is more than a goofy Australian. It was the best four day trip I have ever been on, and I would highly recommend it.

The Official Story: Qadir's Early Departure

By Max Douglas

Qadir was a very interesting person. People ask me why he was sent home, and I don't think it can be answered adequately in a few sentences. Being deprived of an interview or any primary sources, I'll have to describe the events from either what I heard from Qadir himself, or from Mr. Gioia and my parents.

Qadir arrived in Nashville about two weeks before school started. The first thing I noticed about him, after the size difference, was that he was very arrogant and would exaggerate or blatantly lie about anything. The interview I held with him was littered with lies; it was obvious.

I would often run with Qadir to help him get in shape because he wanted to be the stud of the wrestling team. I knew that it would be the shock of his life doing their conditioning for the first time, so I was trying to prepare him. He would often tell me after school that he had run six to eight miles, when in actuality he had run about one mile, stopping regularly. To prove to my dad that Qadir was all talk, we all ran the 5.8 mile loop in the park one Saturday morning. That was a good laugh.

But can lying get you kicked out of MBA? To the right people, it just might.

Qadir decided early in the year that he wanted to do as much as he could with his time. He felt that the school was

humiliating him when they assigned him two study halls a day, like he wasn't smart enough to take more classes. He wanted to

take seven courses, and when he realized that wouldn't happen, he decided to take piano lessons during one of his study halls. Being a student for a full year, Qadir was going to be treated as a typical student. Mr. Gioia went out of his way to put Qadir on the privileged list so he could take his piano lessons. About a week later, Mr. Gioia was looking for Qadir during that study hall period and couldn't find him. What he was doing? I'm not sure, but it didn't have anything to do with piano lessons.



"Qadir was no scholar or athlete; and he certainly did not fit our definition of gentleman," says Douglas's dad

Aside from skipping class, trying to pick fights, and flat out mistreating people, the second thing Qadir did was cheat

in a German test. After this, he was warned that his behavior was not going to be tolerated any longer. I remember driving home from school and his randomly telling me that he was threatened to be sent home. Robbed and not, but had no effect on him. His pride wouldn't let it affect him.

The final straw for Qadir was when he signed his name Adolf and drew a swastika on top of some German work. Test or homework, I don't know, but Qadir told

Mr. Gioia that he didn't know who Adolf was or what the swastika symbol represented. Being caught in a blatant lie, he changed his argument saying that it was a meaningless joke and that it shouldn't be taken seriously. He wouldn't admit that he was wrong and showed no remorse for what he did. After this, it was decided that it was best for Qadir and the school that he return to Azerbaijan.

Here is what my dad had to say: Qadir was no scholar or athlete, and he certainly did not fit our definition of gentleman. He lied; he had little regard for women (but that may have been cultural); he had no remorse for the bad things he did; and he thought he was above it all. Unfortunately, he was not the exchange student MBA thought they were getting.

I will never go to Azerbaijan, nor will I get to know another Azeri as well as I got to know Qadir, so I am forever in MBA's debt to have had this opportunity. I don't think it is fair to judge a whole culture based on the personality of one individual, nor do I think that people should use Qadir's attitude as a reason for condemning Middle Easterners. Although it didn't work out, I honestly find myself extremely lucky to have shared my first half of the year with a foreigner, and I would be more than happy to try it again.

Abortion

Pro-Life

Pro-Choice

By Andrew Keyser

Abortion is perhaps the most divisive issue in American politics today. It seems to define all political choices in this day and age. And while each side has its own arguments, it is imperative for the future of this nation that we recognize that pro-life is the only ethical and rational decision.

During the nine years from 1987 until 1995, over 12 million lives were extinguished by the abhorrent practice of abortion. Each of these lives had the potential, from the moment of conception, to change the world. Think of what the world would be like if Einstein had been aborted, or Thomas Jefferson, or Thomas Edison. We could have aborted by this time hundreds of great minds in the name of the "right to choose."

The major issue in this debate stems from the definition of life and who is an American citizen. According to the Supreme Court, there comes a point at which the rights of the fetus outweigh those of the mother, but until then, the unborn child is fair game. Traditionally, this point has been defined as the eighth week of pregnancy. However, from 1987 to 1995, only about 50 percent of abortions occurred before the first eight weeks. Thus, we are killing what has been defined as a living being.

But when we look at technological advances of today's world, they offer even more convincing evidence that life begins at conception. Many people define the point where life begins as when the fetus could live outside the mother's womb. But, according to our own Mr. Conversions, the fetus could theoretically be kept alive by modern science outside the womb from the moment of conception. Thus, abortion is the murder of another human being.

While many anti-life activists like to say that abortions occur because they have to, that is simply not the case. Today, abortion has become the catch-all form of

birth control, and an escape for the irresponsible. The same people that say that it is unethical not to allow women to kill the baby inside her see the same people who have promiscuous, unprotected sex and just have an abortion when they get pregnant. There are so many other options that abortion does not have to be one of them. Adoption, birth control, and abstinence are all possibilities for women today. Why should they resort to murder?

Undoubtedly you have heard the classic anti-life example of the raped woman who does not want to carry the child of her attacker. First of all, this example is anecdotal and is the least likely reason today for an abortion to occur. However, even if this does occur, why can't she carry the child to term and allow it to be adopted? There are places that will care for her during her pregnancy. I know that, if I could, I would gladly give up nine months, even nine years, to save the life of a human. Another idea that these activists say is that abortions should be legal if the child threatens the health of the mother. However, the only case in which I think that would occur is in a miscarriage, where the baby is already essentially dead. Thus, it is in that case only like removing a tumor rather than a potential human life.

Why do we allow murder to be legalized? Is it legitimate right to privacy? I think not, because it involves three people: the mother, the father, and the child. Unfortunately, abortion has become an escape valve for the irresponsible, and we cannot allow this murder of innocents to continue for the sake of people's pride and responsibility.

Note: I understand that many people do put a great deal of thought into whether or not they have an abortion, and that for some it is a life-changing experience. However, so is murder.

By Matthew Brinton

ABORTION. This single word is nearly always enough to rouse sentiment of one sort or another in any person. It has created huge interest groups, elected or defeated politicians, and caused rifts in the Supreme Court. It is always an issue in politics, never going away, much like gun control. There is no middle ground in this topic, apparently; one is either for it or against it. Those who style themselves "pro-life" will claim that abortion is murder, insisting that each fetus is a living breathing human being. The opposing side, who are "pro-choice", believe that a woman has the right to control what goes on in her own body, including pregnancy.

The famous (or infamous, depending on your perspective) decision *Roe v. Wade* cemented a woman's right to have an abortion firmly into the law. This decision was handed down based upon the Bill of Rights and the right to privacy specifically enumerated therein, i.e., the government can neither force a woman to become pregnant nor force her to have an abortion. Thus, privacy. However, the government could still limit the time after which termination of a pregnancy was not permitted. The ruling reinforced earlier rulings about contraception and the use of them being a private matter not open to government regulation. Immediately, however, caused an enormous backlash by conservatives. As conservatives do when their ability to enforce their beliefs on everyone else is threatened, they immediately mobilized into groups, like the Christian Coalition, dedicated to the outlawing of abortion. A certain monolith religion issued a rather hypocritical encyclical on the sanctity of human life. All of this fervor led to the defeat of the Equal Rights Amendment for fear that it would lead to, God forbid, a constitutional protection of this right.

The outcry began thirty years ago continues to this day. Some hospitals owned by the Catholic Church - referred to earlier and the biggest player in this new Crusade-and other religious organizations prohibit abortion, while their devotees demonstrate in the streets to show their undying devotion to the beliefs inscribed in their heads. Curiously enough, these zealots who style themselves "pro-life" are not above murdering doctors and destroying clinics to express their views, hardly an open and frank exchange of ideas. Worse still, the above fanatics create websites listing the names of pro-abortion doctors, addresses, family members, children's schools, etc., often leading to harassment and even death for those who terminate pregnancies. What these people do not and cannot understand is that their day is over. No longer can they expect their will on women and force them to remain pregnant against their wishes. Now, because abortion is no longer prohibited by law, these fanatics have resorted to scare tactics such as those referred to above, becoming quasi-terrorists willing to murder for their anti-modern beliefs just like Muhammad Atta and Osama bin Laden.

The right to an abortion is just that: a right. Neither a religious leader nor an American government official can force a woman to remain pregnant against her will. To repeat that, FORCE. That's what pro-life types want, to FORCE a woman to remain pregnant whether she wants to or not. The pro-life movement is more than anything an anti-women and anti-feminist movement, which explains why so many of its members are male, especially the religious types leading it. They don't think that a woman can choose, so they feel obligated to "choose life", as they say, for her. Their practice of FORCING their beliefs on others is wrong, even if they think that they're always right. Hardly infallible, are they?

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**SMOOTHIE
KING.**
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A Rebuttal to Creationism, Keyser

By Mr. Gordon Chenery

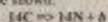
Dear Sir,

As a practicing scientist with some stake in evolutionary theory, I would like to respond to Mr. Keyser's article on creationism. Generally, I think he has made two errors—one factual and the other philosophical. To address the first, my aim is to identify several scientific principles and ideas that were slighted, but which to scientists are fundamental to their work and understanding of the natural world. As for the second, I have only my personal opinion to present.

It seems to me the fundamental nature (and not the *past*) of the question in point is the age of the Earth. Indeed, Mr. Keyser, citing his Bible, puts the age of the Earth at about 4000 years. I disagree for two reasons, the first being geology, the second being radioactive dating. The study of the Earth, geology, rests on several critical ideas, the foremost being *uniformitarianism*. This idea, proposed by James Hutton, is that natural agents now at work on and within the Earth have operated with general uniformity through immensely long periods of time, and that what we see now has been happening throughout the Earth's history. A popular restatement of that doctrine is that studying the present is the key to understanding the past. Charles Lyell applied this doctrine to the history of the Earth and its geologic events. From that time on, supernaturalism or a recent age of the Earth was in trouble, scientifically speaking. Scientists use the doctrine of *superposition*, to understand and describe the formation of strata within the Earth. Archeologists and paleontologists work within the framework of *superposition* each day of their digs. Think also of the changing Earth, as witnessed by volcanism, plate tectonics

and continental drift. Can these events be limited to a few thousand years? Can we date these events? Luckily, the answer is yes.

Radioactive dating is based on the uptake of C14 by living organisms. When they die and uptake ceases, the levels of C14 in their bodies, compared to living organisms is indicative of their age. Carbon dating was demonstrated by Willard Libby when he dug into the pyramid of the pharaoh Zoser (Djoser), circa 2700-2600 BC. He knew that, "as 14C decays it emits a weak beta particle (β^-), or electron, which possesses an average energy of 160keV. The decay can be shown:



Thus, the 14C decays back to 14N. There is a quantitative relationship between the decay of 14C and the production of a beta particle. The decay is constant but spontaneous." (<http://www.c14dating.com/int.html>) He calculated the half-life of 14C to be about 5600 years. He obtained a piece of acacia wood from the tomb and postulated that it should contain about 50% of the 14C that living wood in that region has, which proved to be the case. Since then, many other sources of material of known age have supported radioactive dating methods, including dendrochronologically aged trees. In 1949, Arnold and Libby published their paper "Age determinations by radiocarbon content: Checks with samples of known age" in the journal *Science*. And herein lies the crux of science and doing science. Once published, experimental results are available to all scientists for discussion, replication, or review by anyone. Those ideas and

doctrines that can be proven are the easiest to accept. Those laws and theories that are postulated based on someone's rationale are more subject to interpretation. While Mr. Keyser may dig up a degraded individual that denies the existence of valid data, there can be no working biologist or geologist that would seriously doubt dating techniques. Today over 130 universities are engaged in some form of radioactive dating. These people are the academic descendants of Libby and those that followed, each improving and building on initial work done over 50 years ago. It is not insignificant that both the Shroud of Turin and the Dead Sea Scrolls have been the subject of radioactive dating in the last few years, an action initiated by biblical scholars.

As a neo-Darwinist, I am compelled to try and correct a statement made about Darwin. Charles Darwin did not want to retract his theory of natural selection or his ideas of evolution. In fact, he was agitated that some of his supporters, including Lyell, were not vocal enough on his behalf. In 1871 he published the *Descent of Man*, a book solely about human evolution, written 12 years after his first treatise.

I would like at this point to return to my original statement of having a philosophical disagreement with Mr. Keyser and his ilk. Attacking science without using science is of little consequence. Only scientific questions are the purview of science. If one wishes for a scientific answer, one must ask a scientific question. For instance, "If men administer aspirin each day to themselves, will it lower their cholesterol?" We can perform an experiment to prove (or disprove) our hypothesis.

Science cannot answer questions about values, morality, or faith. For instance, "Is it wise to take aspirin?", or "Should abortion be illegal?" are not scientific questions, and science cannot answer those types of questions. Questions of faith, including the creation of the universe/Earth, are personal, not scientific to most people. Science does not want to prove or disprove the existence of God or a Creator; nor does it have the ability. Why do creationists need science? Do they lack faith? They certainly lack any real idea of the workings of science.

I would propose that many scientists, including the vast majority of the faculty here at MHA, can and do practice their vocation and still worship regularly. Do science and the study of evolution create problems of faith for me and them? I think personally the most I learn of nature and its workings, the more awe-struck and appreciative I become. This is a matter of faith, not science.

The Bible is not a science text and will not work to teach science. For those that cling to each word as literal scientific proof, they should realize they are using literature, albeit divinely inspired, not science. Science is malleable, changing in response to new discoveries. Some peoples' religion is, as well. Those individuals whom I think of as fundamentalists, requiring a literal interpretation for the creation, are always going to be in conflict with scientists if they insist on marrying religion and science. I pray otherwise.

For an extensive review of these and other related questions, please visit www.talkorigins.org.

Against Francophobia

By Mrs. Beatrice O'Connell

(A Reaction to Jeffrey Zager's Story of Teachers who Dislike the French)

My dear editors,

Let's just think about this a bit! Renoir (only the best painter ever). La Cote D'azur (the Riviera—blissful skies and waters around). The Eiffel Tower—(dazzling heights, but what a view! Now screened in so you won't fall). Eclairs and bûche—both have lots of fat grams delicious! Champagne and Normand

cider—both cause great happiness on any occasion! Yves Montand (he has the power to make any mademoiselle/madame swoon). Croissants (crescent-shaped, butter-filled delights). Les Champs Elysees (shopping, eating, strolling, now filled with cell-phone-toting people of all nationalities). Camembert (see "brie"). Napoleon (see "relax"). Zinedine Zidane (best to remember '98,

not '02!). Rodin (only the best sculptor ever). Pierre Capote (my biographic hero; ask any French student). Chateaux (see Mr. Womack for rave reviews!). Le Mont Blanc (NOT the pen, silly!). Coco Chanel (perfume and clothes—a powerful combination). Cheneviseau (mismemes, intrigues, history, castle...). Debussy (a composer to dream over!). Laetitia Casta (see Brian Christie for rave reviews!). Cafe au lait (the best reason to go to France).

Simenon (see Mr. Caldwell for rave reviews!). And so forth...Commander Carr, Mister Jenkins, and Mr. Mosley, go fly a kite! The French people and lovers of French all over the world join me in taking this opportunity to extend our best and most sincere wishes to the readers of the *Bell Ringer*. (and this salutation is SHORT by French standards!). Mine (Mrs. Beatrice Bonaparte-DeVaulle) O'Connell

Senior Class Gossip

By Will Choppin - Senior Class Secretary

After extensive research during the filming of the Archives video, I found that in certain families of members of the Senior

Class are such wonderful cars as a 1960 Modena Ferrari (Landman), Honda S2000 (Kwas), BMW Z3 (Fletcher), Corvette Z06 (Landman), as well as other Porsches, BMWs, and others ridiculously expensive, nice cars.

Congratulations to Matt Kowczak, Seth Cooper, Clayton Trammel, and Jack Bryant, as well as others who have already been accepted into college (Auburn, RU, Arizona State)... Pray for the rest of us that we get in.

Matt Wall and Will Choppin have just finished up a season at St. Cecilia performing the Gershwin's *Crazy for You*. When asked about what it's like working with so many girls, they had to say: "BATS! There all BATS!"



Wall with two BATS from *Crazy for You*

Once again, Seniors have been leaving their mark by trashing that rotten in Corner. When it was an All-Student

commons area one and two years ago, we trashed it; now it has been granted to us as a Senior Only commons area, which we of course proceeded to trash once again.

As for more senior leadership, we have decided to move away from

taping one freshman at a time, now, we bury several of them in piles of leaves and then tell them to rise slowly from their piles to greet some of our favorite administrators when they walk by. That way, we can multiply how many Freshmen we torment at a time. Freshmen will be left in the leaves sometimes from 5 minutes to one hour and 57 minutes, depending on how frequently administrators pass by.

'03 Baby!

Sophomore Gossip

By Jake Wright - Sophomore Class Secretary

At the halloween dance, Chambliss "jessamine" Shillinglaw, Ben "Abu" Turk, and Jay "aladia" Pilkerton seemed to have lost the male and his magic lamp.

Saturday the 16, Forbes Bell and Will Deloache will lead an ultimate team to Huntsville, Alabama to the Savage ultimate tournament.

Couch Rutledge started looking today for new football players. Jeremy Pinsky and Mac Keith were his top prospects due to their excellent performances in the weenie bowl.

Scott Vaughn started writing his own "homecoming for dummies", some of his requirements are that you give your date no more than a day in advance, and you can't know her name when asking her to go.

Pierce Sandwith had a near death experience after running around in his Tennessee Vols shirt at the Vindy-Alabama game.

Having finished cross country, Cotton Clark now gets his exercise by running down Belle Meade Boulevard after his car.

Junior Class Gossip

By David Harper - Junior Class Secretary

Bottle of Chardonnay: \$50
Porcelain Plates: \$100
Blanket and a Picnic Basket: \$15
Moonlit evening with Charlie Pate: priceless

Heading recommendation from doctors, Fredericka has upped his dosage of ADHD medicine to horse tranquilizers, after his hyperness continued to increase.

David Regan is taking up donations of yarn so that he can make a gigantic stocking for Big Mike's feet.

Need help planning a party? Call the Eager Beaver, Matthew Eaves.

Koban scored twice on Friday Night. Oh yeah, he also did pretty well in the game.

The junior class wants to thank Phillip Brackowski, Lee White, Webb White, Michael Bohan, and Matthew Barnes for bringing in big bucks at the concession stand last week.

Three cheers to Lee and Webb White, who had the most clever costumes at the Halloween dance: they went as each other.



Big Mike in '71

Clay Hasty scored a 48 on his Intro to Physics test, only one point away from his football number.

David Chaplin got a nice feel for foreign relations.

Garth Pate's voice just gets stronger and stronger; his unique sound produced a National Anthem before the Baylor game which was extraordinary and loudly applauded.

(Verse of Song)
Wilson's a skater boy,
She said see you later,
boy, He wasn't good enough for her.

Junior Class

dorm list:

1. Beerland, Cole - 12 - Ashworth - Excessive Boggart
2. Huseynov, Qadir - 1,064 - Tiltman - Unexcused Absence
3. Paine, Joseph - 15 - Crowell - Existing Practices in the bottom of Bell
4. Barnes, Matthew - 5 - Tiltman - same
5. Davis, Lipcomb - 5 - Tiltman - same
6. Amos, David - 10 - Redmond - Being a skinny white boy

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Letters to the editor are encouraged, and can be given to a member of the editorial staff, or sent to bellringer@montgomerybell.com. These letters must be signed, but names will be withheld on request. Letters will be edited for length if necessary.

The staff of The Bell Ringer prepares all copy, headlines, and photographs at Montgomery Bell Academy. EverReady Printing in Nashville, Tennessee, prints the paper.

'02-'03 Season Should be Promising for College Basketball

By Jack Davis

The 2002-2003 NCAA Men's College Basketball season looks like the most promising one in recent years for two main reasons: Duke has no shot at the title and Duke is not going to contend for the national championship. Thank God (just a phrase, not a Biblical allusion) that Duke coach Mike "my last name is the most impossible to pronounce ever" Krzyzewski, ESPN's Dick "I'll admit that I hate all teams except Duke" Vitale, and the Cameron "we forgot to take our rabbits shots this week" Crazies will have nothing to celebrate come March.

Now, on to the good teams. Arizona, Kansas, Florida, and Oklahoma, in no particular order, are undoubtedly the favorites to reach New Orleans this March. One word sums up Luke Olson's Arizona Wildcats—stacked, totally stacked. All contributors from last season's Sweet 16 team return, including senior superstars Jason Gardner and Luke Walton. Despite the loss of NBA lottery pick Drew Gooden, the Kansas Jayhawks under head coach Roy Williams will be equally formidable, as

the duo of Nick Collison and Kirk Hinrich

alone almost assure Kansas of a number 1 seed in the tournament. Billy Donovan's Florida Gators are another of college basketball's elite. Combined with the explosive talent of David Lee, James White, and Christian Dreier, Florida's senior leadership from Brett Nelson and Matt Bonner will bring success to Gainesville. Oklahoma is the last of the great teams. The Sooners will contend this year for the NCAA championship because of their relentless will to win, a product of guard Hollis Price and coach Kevin Sampson. After UA, UK, UF, and OU, the NCAA will be wide open.

Most of the best remaining teams will succeed because of great guard play. Look for Texas with T.J. Ford, Oregon with Luke Ridnour, Pittsburgh with Brandin Knight, and Tulsa (yes, you read it correctly, Tulsa) with Greg Harrington and Antonio Reed to go deep into March. UCLA with Jason Kapono and Cedric Belfrage and Alabama with Maurice Williams and Erwin Dudley should also be tough. With these facts in mind, here's my preseason Top 10:

1. Arizona
2. Kansas
3. Florida
4. Oklahoma
5. Texas
6. Pittsburgh

7. UCLA
8. Alabama
9. Oregon
10. Tulsa

Finally, I wouldn't want to forget the local teams, even though the polls certainly will far the entire season. The Vanderbilt Commodores under coach Kevin Stallings, as much as I love to lampoon them, are indeed favorites to reach the final four this year. As you might have guessed, though, this final four will be played in New York City rather than New Orleans, and tickets for it, unlike the Final Four in New Orleans, are still available. For more information, call 1-900-NO-NCAAS. Vandy's chief competition for the basement of the SEC East will be the mighty Tennessee Volunteers. Though difficult to fathom, the Vols under second year man Buzz Peterson will be worse in basketball this year than they are in football. Much love goes out to all the Vols fans in this time of great difficulty. Keep your heads up, guys, the Gators only beat you by 17 points in Knoxville this year when you were ranked #3 in the nation.



All-American Starting Forward Luke Walton should lead Arizona this year to the championship

Another Year of Building for the Preds

By Scott Petrus

With another year of hockey under way, many things have changed for the Predators: lots of new faces, more penalties, and a Playoff Pledge. One thing has not changed. Coming into the 5th Panglossic year of hockey in Nashville, the Predators were optimistic of their goal of making the playoffs for the first time. President Craig Leipold promised to reimburse all the ticket increases to season ticket holders if the Preds did not reach their playoff goal. This hope for wins, however, has been crushed from the first drop of the puck. The Preds have had by far the worst start in franchise history, compiling only one win in their first 11 games, a worse winning percentage than the juggernaut Commodore football team down West End. With the second fewest points (7) in the league, the slim hope for the playoffs at the beginning of the season has shrunk to a prayer for a miracle.

In defense of the hard-working Predators, they have lost all but one of their first 11 games by only one goal, and their one victory came in front of a sellout crowd at the GEC against the Stanley Cup Champion Detroit Red Wings. With the presence of new, young goal scorers, however, being at a Predators game has never been more exciting. The NHL has

pressed refs to keep a closer eye on play, creating more penalties all over the league. With more powerplays and scoring chances,

These young Preds are also experiencing the injury plague. With their new captain, Greg Johnson, along with Scott

have noticed very few fights as of late. This era of peace (resembling our administration's recent ban of the ever-famous flesh piling on the quad) may be due to the absence of the Predators' one true enforcer, the "Grim Reaper," Stu Grimson. Yes, everyone's hero hung up the skates at the end of last year due to his concussion syndrome, and the Reaper is now enrolled at Belmont University, where he is taking economics. Why would a man who is as financially sound as this vet deserve us fans of his talents so he can earn a college degree? I know it's depressing to see him leave, but the Preds must go on.

With franchise-low attendance so far, the talk on the street reminds many of the departure of the once-famous Nashville Knights and MHA legends Jarrett Anderson and yea, even Andrew Crane. I've heard hundreds of MHA students complaining about their lives being unmercifully dominated by that overrated theatre on Hillboro Road...don't act like you don't know what I'm talking about, for I know you do. I realize it may be a little premature, but heed my warning: Don't let one of the few quality sources of entertainment slip away from our city...go support the Predators and enjoy the best night Nashville can offer.



Predators in action against the Redwings

the Preds are scoring more and more goals, but are not able to finish on a few opportunities, the reason for many of their early season defeats.

Walker and Vitali Yakushev, injured, the Preds are definitely in a desperate situation that only a series of wins can fix. For all those who have been to a game, you might

MLB 2002: The year of the Rally Monkey

By Curtis Lane

The 2002 Major League Baseball season was recently completed as one of the best seasons in recent history. We finally saw a World Series absent of both the Braves and the Yankees, a welcome sight for baseball fans everywhere (including me, a devoted Braves fan). Once again, the Yankees tried to buy themselves a championship, but instead were knocked out by a team full of homegrown talent with a much smaller payroll. After seeing the Yankees finally put in their place, I was rooting for the Angels the rest of the way.

The Angels were one of the great stories in all of baseball. Even playing in a division with the Mariners and A's, the Angels, with the help of their Rally Monkey, survived the regular season and made it to the playoffs. In the first round, the Yankees won game one of the series with the Angels, only to be demolished in the next three games. The Twins, Giants, and Cardinals also advanced, defeating the Diamondbacks (or, the Johnson-Schillings), the A's, and my Braves. In the League Championship series, the Angels moved past the Twins in 5 games, setting records for runs scored in Game 5, and the Giants moved past the Cardinals in five games in a series dominated by Giants pitching.

An exciting World Series was desperately needed for the game of baseball. With about 12 runs scored per game, this one was full of scoring and offense, and therefore fun to watch. And, although both teams showed a complete lack of starting pitching, the amount of offense seemed to ignite interest in the series throughout the

country. One by-product of the horrendous starting pitching was the emergence of Angels' reliever Francisco Rodriguez, who completely stifled teams throughout the playoffs. Barry Bonds did all he could to

because Bonds got no help from anyone other than J.T. Snow, who had a great series, the Giants could not recover from Livan's terrible start and therefore lost the game and their World Series dreams.



The Rally Monkey

ensure the Giants of a championship, but it was not enough. In the end, the combination of poor starting pitching, a lack of bench production, and bad managerial decisions by Dusty Baker (one of the most overrated managers in the game), did the Giants in. The Giants bench was so terrible that they had to make Yanyo Shiho, Tom Goodwin, and Shawn Dunston their primary pinch-hitters. In Game 7 of the World Series, Dusty Baker made two terrible decisions: pinch-hitting for Reggie Sanders with Tom Goodwin in the 6th inning, and starting Livan Hernandez over Kirk Reuter.

The most devastating part of the season for the Giants, and maybe the most memorable part, was actually Game 6 of the series. The Giants were leading the series 3-2, and were up 5-0 going into the bottom of the 7th inning. It was Rally Monkey time. Starter Russ Ortiz was having trouble, so Baker decided to pull him and bring in right-hander Felix Rodriguez to face Scott Spivak, who promptly blasted a 3-run homer. Then in the 8th inning Darin Erstad led off with a solo home run, making it a 5-4 game. After singles by Tim Salmon and Garrett

Anderson, Dusty Baker decided to bring in his closer Rob Nen with two men on and no outs. Nen, who ever since he won the World Series in 1997 with the Marlins always seems to choke under pressure, gave up a double to left-center fielder to Troy Glaus, the eventual World Series MVP. Then, in the top of the 9th, the Giants had to pinch hit for Shawn Dunston, who should not have been in the game anyway, with Tom Goodwin, who should have retired already. Needless to say, he struck out, and then Troy Percival finished off the game with a Rich Aurilia strikeout. The Angels' comeback victory (trailing 5-0) was the single biggest comeback of a team facing elimination in a postseason game.

This great World Series was a fitting end to a memorable season. The Twins and the Expos, both on the verge of contraction, surprised people. My Atlanta Braves overcame injuries, Vinny Castilla, and the amazing combination of Julio and Matt Franco at first base to win 100 games and win their division for the 11th straight year. The Oakland A's won 20 straight games in August and September, vaulting them into the playoffs. The Cardinals overcame adversity and the death of Darryl Kile to make it to the NL Championship Series. The Yankees once again tried to buy a championship, but were denied by the eventual champions, the Angels. Curt Schilling and Randy Johnson once again propelled the Diamondbacks to the playoffs, but injuries kept them from advancing past the first round. The league even overcame a potential work stoppage, reaching an agreement just hours before the deadline.

Some predictions for next season:

The Giants lose Dusty Baker and/or Jeff Kent to free agency, undergo numerous injuries throughout the year, and finish 4th in their division, ahead of only the Rockies. The Angels have another good year, but their luck runs out in the first round of the playoffs against the Yankees, who bought the Rally Monkey in the off season for \$5 million. In Tampa Bay, Lou Piniella sets a MLB record for ejections even though he is fired after losing 70 of the first 100 games. The Phillies make huge free agent acquisitions in Tom Glavine and Jim Thome, and either they or the Mets, under Art Howe, finally dethrone the free-agent decimated Braves as division champions. The Twins continue to get better, win 100 games, and make it to the American League Championship series before the Yankees pay them to forfeit. The Texas Rangers are the surprise team of the year and make the playoffs as the AL wildcard. The A's, without Art Howe, are a complete flop and finish dead last in the division. Lastly, Scott Rolen leads the Cardinals to a World Series Championship over the Yankees with a 2-run home run in the bottom of the ninth of Game 6 off Mariano Rivera.

MBA Golf: No More "Guuuyys!"

By John Eason (Co-Editor-in-Chief)

It has been quite the roller coaster ride for the MBA golf team this year. To begin this year, as usual, Coach gives us the "Guys, you have no chance of winning" speech. Soon after though, as I reported earlier, the MBA golf team found some type of will to win that must have come from Coach Caldwell's awe-inspiring pep talks. At one point in the middle of the year, the team was 7-5-2 and had just come off a huge win over Brentwood Academy, the powerhouse in our region. Everyone all around campus was wondering if the golf team was finally back. There were talks of winning region. Making a run for state. But the team overlooked one mighty foe in its path, USN. Yeah, sadly the Big Red lost to USN in golf (or for that matter anything) for the first time ever. Then BGA thrashed us at Belle Meade and suddenly we had a losing record going into region. We needed some

type of inspiration, some words of wisdom. What better place to look than our coach:

"Guys, the great thing about high school golf is that the regular season doesn't even matter. It's practice. The real season begins now with region. If we don't stick by our guns and follow the rules, we will be up a creek without a paddle."

Vince Lombardi couldn't have said it better himself. Taking his words to heart, the golf team found a way to get into the top three at region and insure a spot in State. As the Big Red headed down Natchez Trace towards Pickwick Landing, the site of the State Tournament, there was only one thing on our minds. When is coach going to realize he still has his blinker on?

After day one, things were not looking too good for the Big Red. The low score was Mac Keith's 81, followed by John Eason's 82 (which included a smooth 46 on

the front side), Trey Kendall's 84, and Webb White's 86. Things only got worse. I won't name names. Webb White. Yeah, Mr. White decided to drop down another high score in the 80s, but this time he added a twist. He signed an incorrect scorecard. In other words he was DQ'ed. Sadly, the Big Red finished last in State, but there is a silver lining. There are only two seniors on the team and two freshmen now have State Tournament experience. With 8 returning letterman, look for the Big Red golf team to make a run for State next year and the years to come. For this year's seniors, there is also a silver lining. Father Ryan finished 4th in region. Must have been practicing with Mr. Kelly.

Varsity Football and Cross Country in Action



Slightly Disappointed with *Punch Drunk Love*

By Hunter Foreman

When an artist creates an opus, it is absurd to think that the same level of excellence cannot be achieved again. A truly great artist can recreate and reinvent the same aura that is independent to his/her work. Paul Thomas Anderson, director of *Boogie Nights* and *Magnolia*, should be held to the same standard. His newest film, *Punch-Drunk Love*, starring Adam Sandler as Barry Egan, evoked a lukewarm reaction from me. The film contains his vibrant view, but lacks his normal spark. Barry Egan's world is in an apocalypse. Family life for Barry has degenerated. All of his sisters ridicule him. To top off Barry's problems, he has no love life. *Punch-Drunk Love* starts with a grand *deus ex machina*. One day at work, Barry finds a harmonium on the street, and he meets a British woman, Lena Leonard, who seems to be interested in him. Along with these odd interjections in Barry's life, a phone-call made to a porn service and the discovery that chocolate pudding could be converted into free airline miles, drive Barry's life into a rhapsody of emotions and events.

In *Punch-Drunk Love*, the Anderson style is in full force. Using extreme

of Barry's leading lady, Lena. Another moment, you are warmed by Hawaiian music

ways to tell his mundane stories. Yet something is truly missing from *Punch-Drunk Love*. Knowing Anderson's technique, an audience should not be disturbed at the lack of plot. *Magnolia* was poignant and effective without a Dickens-like plot. While working towards a resolution in the movie where Barry will prevail, something is lost. The entire movie I waited for a crescendo that I was led to believe was coming. It did not.

Paul Thomas Anderson is one of the most evocative directors today. Throughout *Punch-Drunk Love*, Anderson intercepts the movie with intense blobs of color. This brilliant light spectrum is to suggest that for the good or for the bad, everything that happens in life is just another color. If you do not like one color, another will come. Perhaps I have been too harsh on Anderson. Making a movie is no easy task. But as John F. Kennedy once claimed, "Of those to whom much is given, much is required." I have given much respect to Anderson's work. I am only partially disappointed, because I know his soaring potential. Maybe his next film will provide me with the color I want.



Adam Sandler, Emily Watson, and Mary Lynn Rajskub in *Punch-Drunk Love*

juxtapositions, real life is simulated in the most visceral way. At one moment, you are repulsed as blood slowly drips from the eye

and well-crafted dialogue. At points, the filming is scintillating. Anderson should truly be applauded as he finds unorthodox

Debate This!

By Jeffrey Zager

Ever since the beginning of the school year, the student information board has provided a "safe-haven" for ongoing debates about pointless topics. Now correct me if I'm wrong, but isn't that what the debate building is for? Puzzled by this excessive arguing, I decided to see just how far these debaters were willing to go to prove a point. I devised a lot of ancient questions to which no true answer has been discovered. However, if I were to post idiotic questions on student information, no one would take me seriously. After all, I had never posted anything on student information before. I needed an "inside man." My search came to a conclusion when I read James Schallert's page-long response to something about creationism. While I made no attempt to comprehend, let alone read, the response, I did notice that there were a lot of words in it. I had found my "inside man." Convincing James to cooperate, however, proved to be the hardest task of all. In the end, after several days of talking and five dollars, James was up to the challenge. So began the experiment.

The first question which James posted was: *What is the best color? Prove it.* The response was overwhelming. Out of all the answers, blue seemed to be the favorite. However, Rob Bousley decided to take the "politically correct" path and chose yellow, because it is at the middle of the color spectrum and moderation is good. The second question was: *How many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Roll Pop?* Once again, there were numerous responses. If you take the average of all of the responses, then it takes 167.5 licks to

get to the center of a Tootsie Roll Pop. However, Dane Ferré concluded that it depended on the acidity of your saliva (way to think "outside of the box" Dane). The third question was: *What if the kook police really was what it's all about?* This question brought out the philosophical side of the debaters. Parka Brittain and Andrew Davis decided that it would lead to the end of the world. Patrick Shanley said that the meaning could be found at www.nut.org. However, after visiting the site, I would not suggest that anyone visit it. Finally, it was time to separate the men from the boys. To do so, we pulled out all the stops and asked the unthinkable: *Which came first, the chicken or the egg?* Unfortunately, people began to catch on to these questions and no one offered any positive contributions. Therefore, to solve the mystery I flipped a coin. Heyd's was chicken and the egg was egg. It landed on head's, so the chicken came before the egg. To answer the question that you are all asking (what did I mean by "no positive contributions"), I will be forced to name names. Fortunately for you and me, it doesn't really bother me to name names. Along the way, certain people began to question the "honesty" of James. Jordan Jenkins and James (naturally) thought that James was quite funny. However, David Syverud, Nelson Berry, Todd Bood, and Preston Adams did not find James to be funny at all. To recap, blue is the best color, it takes 167.5 licks to get to the center of a Tootsie Roll Pop, if the kook police really is what it's all about then we are going to die, and the chicken came before the egg. We hope this little survey has helped to explain some long-unasked questions.

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Race for Robotic Future

By Ro Chendle

Research groups from around the world have been racing to create the first fully-functional robot. Because of man's natural preference for animate objects with a human-like appearance, bipedal robots (2-legged "walking robots") have been the focus for the mobility device of the future robot. It seems that bipedal robots have proven to be a step in the wrong direction. In terms of stability and mobility, wheels or two legs are inferior to other designs seen in the bodies of other animals. A small research group who has been studying the instant reactions of insects like roaches, centipedes, and scorpions have discovered that they all have a internal mechanism in their legs that when provoked and moved off-balance can react and stabilize far quicker than any brain signal that can be interpreted from the brain to the feet of bipeds. Figuring that the design of the legs has something

to do with the automatic response, these researchers set out to create their first prototype robot. The result was a slightly awkward-looking bug of a robot packed with 6 thin, grappling legs and a central camera on the front. When field tested this robot was discovered to have a great advantage in mobility due to its leg configuration; it could traverse terrain with ease and packed enough stability to stay upright in the most rigorous of inclines. The revolutionary design caught the interest of NASA, who opted for this design for the next Mars ground mission. This new design angle will cause great interest in the near future as full robotic machines with a variety of different leg constructions will start appearing on the market. Until then we must hope that during research, scientists will look at more than one way to build such a crucial project.

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Put a Little Love in Volunteer of the Month Your Hearts

Alex Shofner

By Matt Conrad - Service Club Co-President

The MBA Service Club has been tenaciously aiding many this last month. Such ongoing projects as Friends of Bosman Parks have thrived under the auspices of Matthew Eaves and with the avid support of Mr. Chensery and his young ecologists. MBA holds such records as the most participants and most hours served at soup kitchen in recent months, and our Mr. Throckmold, the man in the big blue (and white) van, is constantly overrun with requests for our respected service club. Aside from goodwill and desire for service hours, one should make it a point of pride to support such a well-founded organization at our school.

There are always opportunities for anyone during the week and on weekends, so come whenever it's convenient for you. The activities include sitting around, playing football, and cooking barbecue at either Titans or Vanderbilt parking with project leaders Brian Christie and Jack Bryant, respectively. Preston Taylor Homes should be commencing under Cannon Kinnard's command. Will Stringfellow is organizing Affordable Housing with Preston Taylor Homes, our substitute for Habitat for Humanity this year. Anyone may sign up for Soup Kitchen each month, but please be sure to come if you do sign up; otherwise, you're taking a spot that could go to another. Please

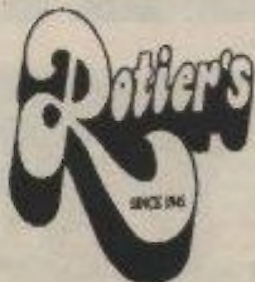
bring anything you can for the different drives, like the coat drive going on right now for the freshman class. Everyone has something lying around that he don't wear anymore, so why not donate it? In addition, a new service project (a brainchild of Mr. Gonia's) should be beginning sometime in the near future. The Greenways Project will be fun and light construction possibly of outdoor exercise stations along the new network of trails being placed all around Nashville. The assembly of these stations should be very easy and will be a lasting and tangible product of our service to the community. All the time, you would be able to see these setups throughout the city and be able to say that you helped build them. The project may also consist of other to-be-announced activities. So come on out!

One final point I have is that a strong majority of the volunteers are upperclassmen, which is a good thing for the junior and senior classes. Yay, Seniors. But Bobby and I would like a somewhat stronger showing from younger guys. Start service now; get into the habit. If transportation is a problem, contact any of the Service Club officers or the project leader. They will do everything in their power to get you there if you want to go. Vive la service!



Speed - 8
Strength - 6
Agility - 3
Psychic Abilities - 4.5
Sense of Humor...heh - meager
Generosity - 9
Power to kill a yak from 50 yards away... with mind bullets - 10

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